

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT NO.		25X1
SUBJECT	Coal and Coke Industry	DATE DISTR.	26 July 1954	
		NO. OF PAGES	2	
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.		25X1
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES		

25X1

1. All possible means of increasing coal production in Poland are being exploited. Several mines which were closed prior to the war on the grounds that they were uneconomical to operate have been reopened and are producing, but the cost of production is higher than the actual value of the coal on the world market.
2. Three new mines producing second-grade domestic coal have been opened in Lower Silesia; they are known as:
 - a. Wesoia
 - b. Gigant
 - c. Ziemowit.
3. No expense or effort is being spared to mechanize Polish mines. An adequate number of Soviet "Combine" type machines are available and have greatly assisted in stepping up production despite the fact that they are not suitable to Polish mining conditions. The initial difficulties (continual mechanical failures) experienced when these machines were first put into operation have now been overcome by stationing Soviet mining engineers at all pits in which they are used. The production and installation of prewar-type Polish mining machinery is still going on, as is the installation of conveyor belts.
4. Coke is in extremely short supply and considerable difficulties are being experienced in meeting expanding internal requirements and export commitments. New coking ovens are being built or have recently gone into operation at Kosciuszko Huta, Lenin Iron and Steel Works (formerly Nowa Huta), and Czestochowa Huta. The old coking plant at Konin (P 53/O 18) is being extended and enlarged.

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